## Organ Pipe Cactus



Address & Phone 10 Organ Pipe Drive, Ajo, AZ 85321

(520) 387-6849 ext 7302 (Kris Eggle Visitor Center) Fax: (520) 387-7475 <u>www.nps.gov/orpi</u>

Park Established April 12, 1937, by Presidential Proclamation of Franklin

D. Roosevelt

Area Significance Monument named for cactus species rarely found in the

United States. Monument preserves a representative sample of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem and classic Basin-and-Range topography. Stark volcanic mountains, rocky canyons, and Sonoran Desert plants and animals

typify this harsh and beautiful land.

Size 330,689 acres (516.74 square miles), with 95% designated

wilderness

Location Pima County, AZ. Headquarters and Kris Eggle Visitor

Center located 34 miles south of Ajo, on State Highway #85 at Mile Post 75.2. (5 miles north of International

Border at Lukeville, AZ/ Sonoyta, Mex.)

Major Features Contains two of the six subdivisions of the Sonoran

Desert ecosystem (Lower Colorado Desert and Arizona Upland); Organ Pipe, Saguaro, Senita, and several other cacti; many species of plants and wildlife found only in

this section of the Sonoran Desert; is home to 3

endangered animal species and other plant and animal species of special concern; is a Globally Important Bird Area as designated by the American Bird Conservancy in 2001; preserves remnants of ice age vegetation; is the northernmost limit of several subtropical plants and

animals.

Plants 28 species of cacti, 642 species of vascular plants

Wildlife Amphibians & Reptiles 49 Birds 285

Fish 1 Mammals 54 (14 bats)

Annual Visitation 224,548 in 2014

Elevation 1670 ft. (Visitor center) – 4808 ft. (Mt. Ajo.)

Average Precipitation 8.80 inches (1950–2014)

## **Entry Fees**

\$8.00 per private vehicle or motorcycle (7 day pass) \$4.00 each per pedestrian or bicyclist (7 day pass) Free entry upon presentation of Senior/Golden Age/ Access passes, Interagency Annual Pass (America the Beautiful), or Organ Pipe Cactus Annual Pass and identification.

Commercial bus: NOTE: these vehicles are too long to travel monument roads. No entry fee is charged for use of Kris Eggle Visitor Center, picnic area or nature trail.

Other commercial vehicles: The monument charges each individual in a commercial group the per-person fee. The driver and guide will not be charged an entrance fee. Passes are accepted for entry as stated on the back of the pass.

## Camping

Twin Peaks Campground (main campground) Regular sites (no reservations)

Group sites available (reservation/walk-up)

Fee \$12 per night; 50% discount upon presentation of Senior/Golden Age/Access passes and identification. Open daily, 34 tent-only sites and 174 places for RVs, Maximum RV length 40 ft. Sites usually available. Restrooms and water available. Solar showers. Dump station. No hookups. Maximum stay 21 days.

Alamo Campground (primitive campground) Fee \$8 per night; 50% discount upon presentation of Senior/Golden Age/Access passes and identification. Open daily, four tent-only sites, no water, fires not permitted. Registrations must be made at the Visitor Center. Maximum stay 8 days.

Backcountry Camping (4 areas)

Fee \$5.00 each permit. Obtain required permit at visitor center. Campsite must be at least 1/2 mile away from roads, structures.

## **Scenic Drives**

Ajo Mountain, 21 mile loop, average time 2–2½ hours; Road is dirt surface; designed for passenger vehicles; not recommended for RVs and trailers over 25 ft.; 4WD not required.

**Puerto Blanco Drive** 41 mile round trip, average time  $3\frac{1}{2}-4\frac{1}{2}$  hours:

Road is dirt surface; recommended for high clearance only.

Trails

6 Easy Trails 0.1–2 miles round trip about 35 miles marked trails.